



Brainworks  
A Kangaroo Kids Initiative

# FLAG BOOK



**Symbols of the world**



# FLAG BOOK

ANJALI KAMATH





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# The Flag

**A flag is a symbol. It can represent many things, like a nation, territory, office, organisation or group. Flags are simple, yet they are distinctive and meaningful. A flag should ideally be recognisable. It should not only have beauty but substance as well.**

## Civil flag

A civil flag is a national flag of a country that is flown by non-government vehicles or civilians. It was common to see civil flags in the past. They depicted buildings and ships that were not used by the military. In some countries, the civil flag is similar to the state (national) flag, but without the coat of arms (official symbol).

INDIAN DHVAJA



CHINESE FLAG



KYRENIA CRUSADER  
FLAG



CROSS OF ST. GEORGE



ROMAN VEXILLUM





BORDER



BICOLOUR



TRICOLOUR



TRIANGLE



QUARTERED



FIMBRIATION



SCANDINAVIAN CROSS



SERRATION



CROSS



SALTIRE



## War flag

Countries like U.K. had different flags for war purposes, whereas other countries used the same flag everywhere. The Philippines' armed forces have a different method. They use the national flag during wars but with a slight difference. They turn the flag upside down. The bigger versions of the war flag that countries' navies use are called battle ensigns. In a battle, a white flag indicates surrender.

## Flag shape

Flags usually have a rectangular shape. However, it is possible to find flags that are of different shapes – triangular, swallow-tailed or square. For instance, the flag of Nepal is in the shape of a two-stacked triangle.

COUPED CROSS





# North And Central America

The Arctic, North Atlantic and North Pacific oceans, and the Caribbean Sea surround the triangle-shaped continent of North America. Canada is the continent's largest country. Greenland, the world's largest island, lies in the North Atlantic Ocean.



## BELIZE

**Flag adopted on:** September 21, 1981

**Country Capital:** Belmopan

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** September 21, 1981

**The flag stands for:** Blue is the colour of the country's main political party, the People's United Party (PUP). Red represents the opposition party, the United Democratic Party (UDP). The national coat of arms features a mahogany tree at the centre. The mahogany tree represents Belize's natural resource.



## REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA

**Flag adopted on:** September 29, 1848

**Country Capital:** San José

**Independence (from Spain):** September 15, 1821

**The flag stands for:** All the United Provinces of Central America have blue and white in their flags. The red, white and blue at the bottom of Costa Rica's flag are inspired by the French tricolour. The red band has the national coat of arms.



## GREENLAND

**Flag adopted on:** June 21, 1985

**Country Capital:** Nuuk (Godthab)

**Independence:** Self-governing country of the Kingdom of Denmark

**The flag stands for:** White symbolises the ice cap and glaciers. Red represents the sun and the fjords.



## CANADA

**Flag adopted on:** February 15, 1965

**Country Capital:** Ottawa

**Independence (union of British North American colonies):** July 1, 1867

**The flag stands for:** Red and white are the country's national colours. The maple leaf in the middle is a national symbol.



## REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR

**Flag adopted on:** May 17, 1912

**Country Capital:** San Salvador

**Independence (from Spain):** September 15, 1821

**The flag stands for:** The flag is blue and white. The coat of arms has the national motto "God, Union, Liberty".







## REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA

**Flag adopted on:** August 17, 1871

**Country Capital:** Guatemala

**Independence (from Spain):**  
September 15, 1821

**The flag stands for:** The flag is blue and white. The coat of arms features the quetzal, the country's national bird, as a symbol of liberty.



## REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

**Flag adopted on:** June 4, 1904

**Country Capital:** Panama City

**Independence (from Colombia):**  
November 3, 1903; **(from Spain):**  
November 28, 1821

**The flag stands for:** The flag is modelled on the U.S. flag. The red originally represented the Liberal Party, and the blue the Conservative party. White represents peace, and blue symbolises purity and honesty. Red also stands for authority and law.



## REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

**Flag adopted on:** February 16, 1866

**Country Capital:** Tegucigalpa

**Independence (from Spain):**  
September 15, 1821

**The flag stands for:** The colours and the five stars symbolise the United Provinces of Central America, of which Honduras was once a member.



## UNITED MEXICAN STATES (MEXICO)

**Flag adopted on:** November 2, 1821

**Country Capital:** Mexico City

**Independence (from Spain):**  
September 16, 1810

**The flag stands for:** The National Liberation Army of Mexico inspired the colours in the flag. The coat of arms features an eagle atop a cactus with a snake lodged in its beak.



## REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

**Flag adopted on:**  
September 4, 1908

**Country Capital:** Managua

**Independence from Spain:**  
September 15, 1821

**The flag stands for:** The flag is blue and white, as with all United Provinces of Central America. The coat of arms has five volcanoes, each representing the five original Central American countries.



## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Flag adopted on:** July 4, 1960

**Country Capital:** Washington, D.C.

**Independence from Great Britain:**  
July 4, 1776

**The flag stands for:** The 50 stars in the flag represent the 50 states of the Union. The 13 stripes represent the 13 original states that revolted against the British.



# South America

**South America is located between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, with the Equator running through it. The roughly triangular shaped South America is the world's fourth largest continent. It has a total area of 17, 814,000 square kilometres. Brazil is South America's biggest country.**



## ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

**Flag adopted on:** February 12, 1812

**Country Capital:** Buenos Aires

**Independence from Spain:** July 9, 1816

**The flag stands for:** The colours were inspired by Argentina's independence struggle. The 'Sun of May' at the centre refers to the events of May 1810. On that day, the clouds were believed to have parted to show the shining sun and the blue sky.



## REPUBLIC OF BOLIVIA

**Flag adopted on:** November 30, 1851

**Country Capital:** La Paz

**Independence from Spain:** August 6, 1825

**The flag stands for:** Red represents valour, yellow symbolises the mineral wealth, and green stands for the country's fertile land.



## FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL

**Flag adopted on:** November 15, 1889

**Country Capital:** Brasilia

**Independence from Portugal:** September 7, 1822

**The flag stands for:** The green field stands for Brazil's forests. The yellow diamond symbolises the country's mineral resources, especially gold. The blue disc has the country motto that translates as 'Order and Progress'.



## REPUBLIC OF CHILE

**Flag adopted on:** October 18, 1817

**Country Capital:** Santiago

**Independence from Spain:** September 18, 1810

**The flag stands for:** Blue symbolises the sky; white represents the snow on the Andes Mountains; and red represents the blood shed by the martyrs during the freedom struggle.



## REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

**Flag adopted on:** December 17, 1819

**Country Capital:** Bogotá

**Independence from Spain:** July 20, 1810

**The flag stands for:** Yellow represents sovereignty and justice; blue stands for loyalty, and red symbolises courage.



## REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

**Flag adopted on:** September 26, 1860

**Country Capital:** Quito

**Independence from Spain:** May 24, 1822

**The flag stands for:** The colours of the Ecuadorian flag are those of the tricolour flown by the revolutionary Francisco de Miranda.





## DEPARTMENT OF GUIANA (FRENCH GUIANA)

**Country Capital:** Cayenne

**Independence:** Overseas department of France

**The flag stands for:** It is the same as the flag of France. The colours represent liberty, equality and fraternity.



## CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

**Flag adopted on:** May 20, 1966

**Country Capital:** Georgetown

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** May 26, 1966

**The flag stands for:** Green symbolises the country's large forests. The yellow triangle symbolises hope and a bright future, and the red triangle represents the citizens' zeal in building the nation. Black stands for perseverance, and white for the country's many rivers.



## COLONY OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

**Flag adopted on:** September 29, 1948

**Country Capital:** Stanley

**Independence:** Self-governing territory of the United Kingdom

**The flag stands for:** The ram in the national coat of arms symbolises the islands' sheep industry. The U.K. flag features on the hoist side.



## REPUBLIC OF PERU

**Flag adopted on:** February 25, 1825

**Country Capital:** Lima

**Independence from Spain:** July 28, 1821

**The flag stands for:** Red and white colours represent the ancient Inca people, the original rulers of Peru. The coat of arms is featured in the government flag.



## REPUBLIC OF SURINAME

**Flag adopted on:** November 25, 1975

**Country Capital:** Paramaribo

**Independence from the Netherlands:** November 25, 1975

**The flag stands for:** The green stripes represent the country's forests; white stands for freedom and justice; and red symbolises the spirit of the nation. The star stands for home and unity.



## REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY

**Flag adopted on:** November 25, 1842

**Country Capital:** Asuncion

**Independence from Spain:** May 14, 1811

**The flag stands for:** The flag is inspired by the French tricolour. The coat of arms features the 'Star of May' – a representation of freedom for South American countries. The treasury seal on the reverse side has the motto that translates as 'Peace and Justice'.



## BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

**Flag adopted on:** April 20, 1836

**Country Capital:** Caracas

**Independence from Spain:** July 5, 1811

**The flag stands for:** The arc of seven stars represents the seven major provinces that fought during the independence movement.



## ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY

**Flag adopted on:** July 11, 1830

**Country Capital:** Montevideo

**Independence from Brazil:** August 25, 1825

**The flag stands for:** The nine stripes represent the nine original departments of the republic. The Uruguay flag, like most South American countries, features the 'Sun of May'.





# The Caribbean

The Caribbean represents a group of islands in the Caribbean Sea. The Caribbean has coral-and-limestone islands like Anguilla, Cayman Islands, the Bahamas and the British Virgin Islands. Dominica, Guadeloupe, Grenada and Montserrat, on the other hand, are volcanic in origin. The size of the islands varies greatly. Cuba is the largest island while Anguilla is the smallest.



## ANGUILLA

**Flag adopted on:** May 30, 1990

**Country Capital:** The Valley

**Independence:** None; overseas territory of the United Kingdom

**The flag stands for:** The flag has the U.K. flag in the upper hoist side. The coat of arms has three interlocking dolphins.



## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

**Flag adopted on:** February 27, 1967

**Country Capital:** Saint John's

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** November 1, 1981

**The flag stands for:** The centre V stands for victory, while the sun represents the coming of a new era.



## BARBADOS

**Flag adopted on:** November 30, 1966

**Country Capital:** Bridgetown

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** November 30, 1966

**The flag stands for:** The blue-yellow-blue stripes symbolises the sea, sand and sky. The trident head represents the country's freedom from its colonial past.



## ARUBA

**Flag adopted on:** March 18, 1976

**Country Capital:** Oranjestad

**Independence:** Self-governing part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

**The flag stands for:** The four-pointed star symbolises the island. The blue base represents the waters of Aruba and the blue skies. The parallel yellow stripes represent Aruba's sovereign position with regards to the Netherlands.



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

**Flag adopted on:** July 10, 1973

**Country Capital:** Nassau

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** July 10, 1973

**The flag stands for:** The aquamarine stripes represent the water surrounding the islands, and the yellow symbolises the beaches. The black triangle represents the strength of the people of the Bahamas.





## BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

**Adopted in:** 1956

**Country Capital:** Road Town

**Independence:** None; overseas territory of the United Kingdom

**The flag stands for:** The flag has the U.K. flag in the upper hoist side. The badge has St. Ursula, a British Christian saint, who is represented by 12 lamps.



## CAYMAN ISLANDS

**Adopted in:** 1959

**Country Capital:** George Town

**Independence:** None; overseas territory of the United Kingdom

**The flag stands for:** The U.K. flag is on the upper hoist side. The coat of arms' three stars symbolises the three main islands. The turtle and the pineapple stand for the islands' fauna and flora.



## COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

**Flag adopted on:** November 3, 1978

**Country Capital:** Roseau

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** November 3, 1978

**The flag stands for:** The green stands for the country's vast forests and the yellow-white-black cross represents the island's original inhabitants. The Sisserou parrot is the national bird.



## REPUBLIC OF CUBA

**Flag adopted on:** May 20, 1902

**Country Capital:** Havana

**Independence:** From Spain – December 10, 1898; from U.S. occupation – May 20, 1902

**The flag stands for:** The red triangle symbolises equality, and the white star stands for independence.



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**Flag adopted on:** November 6, 1844

**Country Capital:** Santo Domingo

**Independence from Haiti:** February 27, 1844

**The flag stands for:** The blue and red are taken from the flag of Haiti. The white cross symbolises faith. The official flag has the coat of arms that features the national flag, the Bible and a cross.



## GRENADA

**Flag adopted on:** February 7, 1974

**Country Capital:** Saint George's

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** February 7, 1974

**The flag stands for:** The central star represents the capital city, and the six outer stars stand for the six outer parishes. The nutmeg at the hoist side is Grenada's most popular product.







## DEPARTMENT OF GUADELOUPE

**Country Capital:** Basse-Terre

**Independence:** Overseas department of France

**The flag stands for:** It uses the flag of France.



## JAMAICA

**Flag adopted on:** August 6, 1962

**Country Capital:** Kingston

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** August 6, 1962

**The flag stands for:** The black, yellow and green colours represent, respectively, the troubles suffered by the nation, the bright sun, and the fertile land.



## REPUBLIC OF HAITI

**Flag adopted on:** May 18, 1803

**Country Capital:** Port-au-Prince

**Independence from Haiti:** February 27, 1844

**The flag stands for:** Blue and red are derived from the French flag. The coat of arms has the motto that translates as 'Union makes Strength'.



## DEPARTMENT OF MARTINIQUE

**Country Capital:** Fort-de-France

**Independence:** Overseas department of France

**The flag stands for:** The French tricolour is used during official ceremonies.



## COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

**Flag adopted on:** 1922

**Country Capital:** San Juan

**Independence:** None; self-governing commonwealth associated with the United States

**The flag stands for:** The white stripes represent liberty. The red stripes and the triangle corners stand for the state's legislative, executive and judicial branches.



## NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

**Adopted in:** 1994

**Country Capital:** Willemstad

**Independence:** Part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

**The flag stands for:** The stars stand for the five main islands. The blue and red are derived from the flag of the Netherlands.

## MONTSERRAT

**Adopted in:** 1962

**Country Capital:** Plymouth

**Independence:** Overseas territory of the United Kingdom

**The flag stands for:** The hoist side has the U.K. flag. The Montserratian coat of arms has a cross as a symbol of Christianity; the harp and the woman represent the Irish immigrants in the country.







## FEDERATION OF SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

**Flag adopted on:** September 19, 1983

**Country Capital:** Basseterre

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** September 19, 1983

**The flag stands for:** The green triangle symbolises the fertile land; the red one symbolises the freedom struggle; and the black represents the island's African heritage.



## SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

**Flag adopted on:** October 12, 1985

**Country Capital:** Kingstown

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** October 27, 1979

**The flag stands for:** The three green diamonds symbolise the 'Gems of the Antilles', as the islands are known. The V shape stands for the first letter of 'Vincent'.



## SAINT LUCIA

**Flag adopted on:** March 1, 1967

**Country Capital:** Castries

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** February 22, 1979

**The flag stands for:** Blue stands for the Caribbean Sea. The triangles represent the twin peaks of the Pitons.



## REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**Flag adopted on:** August 31, 1962

**Country Capital:** Port-of-Spain

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** August 31, 1962

**The flag stands for:** The white stripes represent the sea that joins the two main islands of the nation. Red represents the people's vitality, and black symbolises their strength.



## TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

**Adopted in:** 1968

**Country Capital:** Grand Turk

**Independence:** None; overseas territory of the United Kingdom

**The flag stands for:** The U.K. flag lies in the upper hoist side. The shield has a conch shell, a crayfish (symbolising the island's fishing industry), and cactus (signifying flora).



## VIRGIN ISLANDS (UNITED STATES)

**Adopted in:** 1921

**Country Capital:** Charlotte Amalie

**Independence:** None; island territory of the United States

**The flag stands for:** The flag incorporates a simplified version of the U.S. seal, which has an eagle holding an olive branch in one claw and three arrows (symbolising the three major islands) in the other.





# North And West Africa

**Northern Africa is home to the Sahara, the largest desert in the world. The desert covers an area of nearly 8,600,000 square kilometres. The Atlas Mountains stretches through northwestern Africa for over 2,000 kilometres. Sudan, with an area of 2,503,890 square kilometres is Africa's largest country.**



## PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

**Flag adopted on:** July 3, 1962

**Country Capital:** Algiers

**Independence (from France):**  
July 5, 1962

**The flag stands for:** The crescent and star and the colour green are traditional Islamic symbols.



## BURKINA FASO

**Flag adopted on:** August 4, 1984

**Country Capital:** Ouagadougou

**Independence (from France):**  
August 5, 1960

**The flag stands for:** The red in the flag symbolises the 1984 revolution, and the star represents the revolution's guiding force. Green stands for hope and abundance.



## REPUBLIC OF BENIN

**Flag adopted on:** November 16, 1959

**Country Capital:** Porto-Novo

**Independence (from France):**  
August 1, 1960

**The flag stands for:** The flag has pan-African colours, which are symbolic of African unity.



## CAMEROON

**Flag adopted on:** May 20, 1975

**Country Capital:** Yaoundé

**Independence (from France):**  
August 5, 1960

**The flag stands for:** The flag has pan-African colours. The star in the middle symbolises national unity.



## REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE

**Flag adopted on:** February 25, 1992

**Country Capital:** Praia

**Independence (from Portugal):**  
July 5, 1975

**The flag stands for:** The blue field and the gold stars symbolise the 10 primary islands of Cape Verde situated in the Atlantic Ocean.



## CONGO, REPUBLIC OF THE

**Flag adopted on:** August 18, 1958

**Country Capital:** Brazzaville

**Independence (from France):**  
August 15, 1960

**The flag stands for:** The flag has pan-African colours.





## ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

**Flag adopted on:** October 4, 1984

**Country Capital:** Cairo

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** February 28, 1922

**The flag stands for:** The flag has Pan-African colours. The coat of arms features the golden eagle of Saladin, the country's 12<sup>th</sup>-century ruler.



## GABONESE REPUBLIC

**Flag adopted on:** August 9, 1960

**Country Capital:** Libreville

**Independence (from France):** August 17, 1960

**The flag stands for:** Green and yellow symbolises the country's wealth. Blue stands for the extensive coast.



## REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA

**Flag adopted on:** October 12, 1968

**Country Capital:** Malabo

**Independence (from Spain):** October 12, 1968

**The flag stands for:** The six stars in the flag represent the mainland and the five principal islands. The coat of arms has the silk-cotton tree and the motto that translates to 'Unity, Peace, Justice'.



## REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

**Flag adopted on:** February 18, 1965

**Country Capital:** Banjul

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** February 18, 1965

**The flag stands for:** The red in the flag represents the savannah grasslands; blue stands for the Gambia River; and green symbolises the forests. The white stripes stand for unity and peace.



## REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

**Flag adopted on:** November 10, 1958

**Country Capital:** Conakry

**Independence (from France):** October 2, 1958

**The flag stands for:** The flag is modelled on the French tricolour and it features pan-African colours.



## REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU

**Flag adopted on:** September 24, 1973

**Country Capital:** Bissau

**Independence (from Portugal):** September 24, 1973

**The flag stands for:** The flag has pan-African colours. The black star on the flag's red band stands for African freedom and unity.

## REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

**Flag adopted on:** December 3, 1959

**Country Capital:** Yamoussoukro

**Independence (from France):** August 7, 1960

**The flag stands for:** The flag is inspired by the French tricolour. The orange on the flag symbolises dynamic growth, white symbolises peace, and green stands for hope.



## REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**Flag adopted on:** March 6, 1957

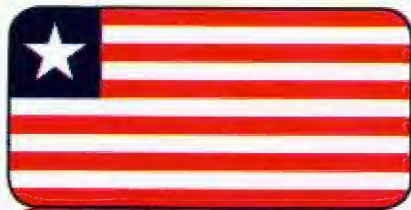
**Country Capital:** Accra

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** March 6, 1957

**The flag stands for:** Ghana is the first country to use pan-African colours in its flag. The black star in the middle stands as a symbol for 'African freedom'.







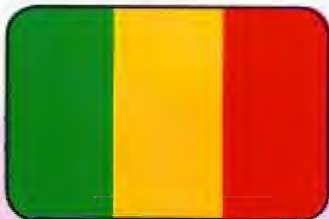
### REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

**Flag adopted on:** July 26, 1847

**Country Capital:** Monrovia

**Independence:** July 26, 1847

**The flag stands for:** The 11 stripes on the flag is symbolic of the 11 men who signed the Liberian Declaration of Independence.



### REPUBLIC OF MALI

**Flag adopted on:** March 1, 1961

**Country Capital:** Bamako

**Independence (from France):**  
September 22, 1960

**The flag stands for:** Modelled after the French flag, the Mali flag incorporates pan-African colours.



### GREAT SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA (LIBYA)

**Adopted in:** 1977

**Country Capital:** Tripoli

**Independence:** July 26, 1847

**The flag stands for:** Libya's national flag is the only one in the world with a single colour. Green is the country's national colour as well as the traditional Islamic colour.



### ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

**Flag adopted on:** April 1, 1959

**Country Capital:** Nouakchott

**Independence (from France):**  
November 28, 1960

**The flag stands for:** The star, crescent and the green colour are associated with Islam.



### FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**Flag adopted on:** October 1, 1960

**Country Capital:** Abuja

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** October 1, 1960

**The flag stands for:** White symbolises unity and peace, and green stands for a fertile land.



### REPUBLIC OF NIGER

**Flag adopted on:** November 23, 1959

**Country Capital:** Niamey

**Independence (from France):**  
August 3, 1960

**The flag stands for:** The orange disc represents the sun. The orange in the flag represents the savannah grasslands; the white stands for the Niger River; and the green represents the country's rainforests.

### KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

**Flag adopted on:** November 17, 1915

**Country Capital:** Rabat

**Independence (from France):**  
March 2, 1956

**The flag stands for:** The deep-red field stand as a symbol for the descendants of Prophet Muhammad. The green star at the centre represents the ancient seal of Solomon.







## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

**Flag adopted on:** November 5, 1975

**Country Capital:** São Tomé

**Independence (from Portugal):** July 12, 1975

**The flag stands for:** The red triangle symbolises the freedom struggle. The two stars stand for the country's two main islands.



## REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

**Flag adopted on:** April 27, 1961

**Country Capital:** Freetown

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** April 27, 1961

**The flag stands for:** Green represents the natural and agricultural resources. White stands for unity and justice, and blue symbolises Freetown's natural harbour.



## REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

**Adopted in:** September 1960

**Country Capital:** Dakar

**Independence (dissolution of federation with Mali):** August 20, 1960

**The flag stands for:** The flag is modelled after the French tricolour and incorporates pan-African colours. The green star symbolises unity and hope.



## REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN

**Flag adopted on:** May 20, 1970

**Country Capital:** Khartoum

**Independence (from Egypt and the United Kingdom):** January 1, 1956

**The flag stands for:** Red represents progress and socialism. White stands for hope and peace. Black stands for the name of the country (Sudan is Arabic for black). Green symbolises Islam.



## WESTERN SAHARA

**Flag adopted on:** February 27, 1976

**Country Capital:** None

**Independence:** Unresolved; under control of Morocco

**The flag stands for:** Features pan-African colours.



## REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

**Adopted in:** 1835

**Country Capital:** az Tunis

**Independence (from French-administered UN trusteeship):** March 20, 1956

**The flag stands for:** The red field is modelled after the national flag of Turkey.

## REPUBLIC OF TOGO

**Flag adopted on:** April 27, 1960

**Country Capital:** Lomé

**Independence (from French-administered UN trusteeship):** April 27, 1960

**The flag stands for:** Red stands for loyalty, love and charity. The flag features the 'Star of Hope' that symbolises national unity. The five stripes represent the country's administrative regions.





# East Africa

The Great Rift Valley stretches from Ethiopia to Mozambique in East Africa. About 160 kilometres (100 miles) east of the East African Rift System is Mt. Kilimanjaro. The Kilimanjaro is the Africa's highest point – with a peak elevation of 5,895 metres (19,340 feet).



## REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

Flag adopted on: June 28, 1967

Country Capital: Bujumbura

Independence (from UN trusteeship under Belgian administration): July 1, 1962

The flag stands for: The three stars in the flag represent the three major ethnic groups of the country – the Tutsi, Hutu and Twa.



## REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI

Flag adopted on: June 27, 1977

Country Capital: Djibouti

Independence (from France): June 27, 1977

The flag stands for: Blue stands for the Issa people, and green symbolises the Afar people. The white triangle has a red star which represents national unity.



## FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

Flag adopted on: February 6, 1996

Country Capital: Addis Ababa

Independence: It is the oldest independent country in Africa

The flag stands for: Pan-African colours are incorporated in the flag. The star represents unity among different Ethiopian nationalities.







## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**Flag adopted on:** December 12, 1963

**Country Capital:** Nairobi

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** December 12, 1963

**The flag stands for:** Black, red and green are the colours of the Kenya African Union (KAU) party. Later, white was added to represent the democratic party and symbolise national unity. The two crossed spears, the Masia shield, represents tradition and unity.



## SOMALIA

**Flag adopted on:** October 12, 1954

**Country Capital:** Mogadishu

**Independence (from the United Kingdom and Italy):** July 1, 1960

**The flag stands for:** The blue is modelled on the United Nations' flag. The 'Star of Unity' symbolises the Somali people across different countries.



## REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**Flag adopted on:** October 9, 1962

**Country Capital:** Kampala

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** October 9, 1962

**The flag stands for:** The striped colours are derived from the flag of the Uganda People's Congress (UPC). The crested crane is Uganda's national symbol.



## REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

**Flag adopted on:** January 8, 1996

**Country Capital:** Victoria

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** June 29, 1976

**The flag stands for:** Red, green and white are the official colours of the Seychelles People's United Party (SPUP). Yellow and blue represent the Democratic party.



## UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

**Flag adopted on:** June 30, 1964

**Country Capital:** Dar es Salaam

**Independence (Republic formed by union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar):** April 26, 1964

**The flag stands for:** Green and black are derived from the Tanganyika flag and represent the people and the land of Tanzania. Blue came from the Zanzibar flag.



## STATE OF ERITREA

**Flag adopted on:** December 5, 1995

**Country Capital:** Asmara

**Independence (from Ethiopia):** May 24, 1993

**The flag stands for:** Green, red and blue are the colours of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), the party that led the struggle for independence. The olive branch circled by a wreath is similar to the flag of the United Nations and represents the country's autonomy.



# Central And Southern Africa

**Central Africa stretches across the Equator. The terrain consists of big, wide plateaus, which reach 914 metres (3,000 feet) close to the Angolan border. At 5,119 metres (16,795 feet), Margherita Peak is Central Africa's highest point.**

**Southern Africa also has high plateaus that consist of rolling grasslands. Then there is the Kalahari desert and the Great Escarpment, a series of mountain ranges. The Zambezi and the Limpopo are the region's largest rivers.**



## REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

**Flag adopted on:** November 11, 1975

**Country Capital:** Luanda

**Independence (from Portugal):**  
November 11, 1975

**The flag stands for:** The machete in the central yellow emblem stands for agriculture and the cogwheel represents industry. The star symbolises progress. The red colour represents the blood shed during the fight for independence, and the black signifies Africa.



## REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**Flag adopted on:** September 30, 1966

**Country Capital:** Gaborone

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** September 30, 1966

**The flag stands for:** The blue background represents life and water. The black-and-white centre, derived from the coat of the zebra, the country's national animal, symbolises racial equality.



## REPUBLIC OF CHAD

**Flag adopted on:** November 6, 1959

**Country Capital:** N'Djamena

**Independence (from France):**  
August 11, 1960

**The flag stands for:** The flag is a combination of pan-African colours and the French tricolour. Blue represents water and sky; yellow stands for sun and desert; and white signifies the sacrifice of the freedom fighters.





## UNION OF THE COMOROS

**Adopted in:** December 23, 2001  
(current flag)

**Country Capital:** Moroni

**Independence (from France):**  
July 6, 1975

**The flag stands for:** The stars and the crescent represent Islam. The four stars symbolise the four main islands.



## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**Flag adopted on:** May 17, 1997

**Country Capital:** Kinshasa

**Independence (from France):**  
June 30, 1960

**The flag stands for:** The six stars in the flag represent the original provinces of Congo.



## REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

**Flag adopted on:** July 6, 1964

**Country Capital:** Lilongwe

**Independence (from France):**  
July 6, 1964

**The flag stands for:** The colour black represents the country's African heritage. Red represents the blood of the freedom fighters. Green represents the land. The rising sun is a symbol of hope and freedom for Africa.



## KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

**Flag adopted on:** January 20, 1987

**Country Capital:** Maseru

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** October 4, 1966

**The flag stands for:** The three horizontal stripes of blue, white, and green represent rain, peace, and prosperity respectively. The black Basotho hat in the centre represents the indigenous people.



## REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR

**Flag adopted on:** October 14, 1958

**Country Capital:** Antananarivo

**Independence (from France):** June 26, 1960

**The flag stands for:** Red and white are the country's traditional colours. Green is a tribute to Madagascar's former peasant class.



## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Flag adopted on:** December 1, 1958

**Country Capital:** Bangui

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** August 13, 1960

**The flag stands for:** The colours blue, white and red are inspired by the French tricolour. These colours are fused with the colours red, yellow and green – the pan-African colours. The red stripe represents the bond between Europeans and Africans. The yellow star symbolises hope for a better tomorrow.





## REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

**Flag adopted on:** January 9, 1968

**Country Capital:** Port Louis

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** March 12, 1968

**The flag stands for:** Red symbolises the independence movement; blue stands for the Indian Ocean; yellow is the light of freedom that shines over the island; and green stands for the natural vegetation.



## REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

**Flag adopted on:** May 1, 1983

**Country Capital:** Maputo

**Independence (from Portugal):** June 25, 1975

**The flag stands for:** The yellow in the red triangle stands for education, the rifle represents the defence of the land, and the hoe stands for peasantry.



## REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

**Flag adopted on:** October 25, 2001

**Country Capital:** Kigali

**Independence (from Belgium-administered UN trusteeship):** July 1, 1962

**The flag stands for:** Blue represents happiness and peace. Green is a symbol of prosperity, whereas yellow stands for progress.



## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**Flag adopted on:** March 21, 1990

**Country Capital:** Windhoek

**Independence (from South African mandate):** March 21, 1990

**The flag stands for:** The colours blue, red and green are colours derived from the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), who were responsible for liberating the country in 1990. The sun represents energy and life.



## REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**Flag adopted on:** October 24, 1964

**Country Capital:** Lusaka

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** October 24, 1964

**The flag stands for:** The colours of the flag are derived from the United Nationalist Independent Party, the main political party at the time of the country's independence. The eagle symbolises patriotism and freedom.



## REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

**Flag adopted on:** April 18, 1980

**Country Capital:** Harare

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** April 18, 1980

**The flag stands for:** The bird is the national emblem. The red star denotes the country's national ideals, and the triangle represents peace.



## REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Flag adopted on:** April 27, 1994

**Country Capital:** Pretoria

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):**  
May 31, 1910; proclaimed a Republic on  
May 31, 1961

**The flag stands for:** The Y-shape represents unification. The red, white and blue were derived from the colours of the Boer Republics. The yellow, black and green are the party colours of the African National Congress (ANC).



## KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND

**Flag adopted on:** October 30, 1967

**Country Capital:** Mbabane

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):**  
September 6, 1968

**The flag stands for:** The background is based on the flag given to the Swazi Pioneer Corps in 1941, by King Sobhuza II. The Swazi shield in the middle features two spears, a staff, and hanging widowbird feathers.





# Eastern Europe

**Eastern Europe covers the geographical and political areas of the easternmost part of Europe. It is full of mountains. Exceptions include the countries of Hungary, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania and some parts of the Czech Republic. Russia is the largest country in the world covering 17,075,400 square kilometres.**



## REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

**Flag adopted on:** May 16, 1995

**Country Capital:** Minsk

**Independence (from Soviet Union):** August 25, 1991

**The flag stands for:** The red in the flag signifies the blood shed by the patriots of Belarus during their independence struggle. The green represents the country's forests. Then there is the red embroidered pattern in the flag, a design that has been traditionally woven in a peasant's dress.



## REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

**Flag adopted on:** November 27, 1990

**Country Capital:** Sofia

**Independence (declared; from Ottoman Empire):** September 22, 1908

**The flag stands for:** The white in the flag stands for peace, freedom and love; green represents the country's vast natural resources; and red symbolises the independence movement and the bravery shown by the freedom fighters.



## REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**Flag adopted on:** December 22, 1990

**Country Capital:** Zagreb

**Independence from Yugoslavia:** June 25, 1991

**The flag stands for:** The stripes in the flag represent the traditional Croatian colours. The national coat of arms has five shields atop the main shield in the middle. The checkerboard design is the symbol of old Croatian rulers.



## REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

**Flag adopted on:** May 8, 1990

**Country Capital:** Tallinn

**Independence (recognised – from Soviet Union):** August 20, 1991

**The flag stands for:** The blue in the flag is a symbol of faith. It also represents the sky, seas and lakes. The black stands for soil as well as the suppression faced by the country in the past. The white in the flag stands for virtue, enlightenment and snow, and the eventual victory for independence.



## CZECH REPUBLIC

**Flag adopted on:** March 30, 1920

**Country Capital:** Prague

**Independence:** January 1, 1993 (Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia)

**The flag stands for:** The stripes represent the colours of Bohemia, which make up a large part of the country. The blue triangle represents the state of Moravia in Czech Republic.





## REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

**Flag adopted on:** March 20, 1989

**Country Capital:** Vilnius

**Independence (recognised by Soviet Union):** September 6, 1991

**The flag stands for:** The yellow in the flag stands for ripening wheat and freedom from need. The colour green represents the country's forests as well as hope. Red symbolises patriotism.



## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**Flag adopted on:** August 22, 1991

**Country Capital:** Moscow

**Independence (from Soviet Union):** August 24, 1991

**The flag stands for:** The white in the Russian flag stands for nobility; blue stands for truthfulness; and red symbolises valour and love. This flag was adopted by the Russian czar, Peter the great. The czar was inspired by the Dutch tricolour.



## REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

**Flag adopted on:** May 12, 1990

**Country Capital:** Chisinau

**Independence (from Soviet Union):** August 27, 1991

**The flag stands for:** The flag reflects traditional Romanian colours, as Moldova was once a part of Romania.



## REPUBLIC OF POLAND

**Flag adopted on:** August 1, 1919

**Country Capital:** Warsaw

**Independence:** November 11, 1918

**The flag stands for:** The colours red and white have traditionally been associated with the country's coat of arms.



## ROMANIA

**Flag adopted on:** December 27, 1989

**Country Capital:** Bucharest

**Independence from Turkey:** May 9, 1877

**The flag stands for:** The tricolour is a reflection of Romania's past with Moldova and Wallachia, whose local flags had the same colours. The flag came about when Wallachia and Moldova united to form Romania. That particular flag, however, had horizontal stripes.



## UKRAINE

**Flag adopted on:** September 4, 1991

**Country Capital:** Kiev (Kyiv)

**Independence (from Soviet Union):** August 24, 1991

**The flag stands for:** The colours of the Ukrainian flag symbolises blue skies over the golden fields of the Steppes.

## REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

**Flag adopted on:** February 27, 1990

**Country Capital:** Riga

**Independence (recognised by Soviet Union):** August 21, 1991

**The flag stands for:** According to a legend, the flag represents an injured tribal leader wrapped in a white cloth after a battle. The red colour of the flag depicts his blood stains.





# Central Europe

Montenegro and Slovenia aside, Central Europe is mostly a landlocked territory. Slovenia has limestone plateaus, caves, ridges, underground rivers, valleys and steep Alpine peaks. Serbia is mostly low hills and plains, whereas Montenegro has quite a few high mountains. The Western Carpathian Mountains dominate the Slovakian landscape. Hungary is mainly plains, but has low mountains and hills close to its border with Slovakia.



## REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

**Flag adopted on:** October 1, 1957

**Country Capital:** Budapest

**Independence (unification by King Stephen I):** 1000

**The flag stands for:** The Hungarian flag is modelled after the French tricolour. The colour red signifies strength, green stands for hope, and white symbolises faithfulness.



## REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

**Flag adopted on:** June 27, 1991

**Country Capital:** Ljubljana

**Independence from Yugoslavia:** June 25, 1991

**The flag stands for:** The seal in the upper hoist side has the image of Triglav, Slovenia's highest peak. The three pointed stars in an inverted triangle are taken from the coat of arms of the Counts of Celje, the Slovene dynastic house of the late 1300s and the early 1400s.



## SERBIA

**Flag adopted on:** August 16, 2004

**Country Capital:** Belgrade

**Independence:** 5 June, 2006

**The flag stands for:** There are three horizontal stripes of red (top), blue, and white. The Serbian coat of arms is featured slightly to the hoist side.



## REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

**Flag adopted on:** May 1, 1945

**Country Capital:** Vienna

**Independence:** July 27, 1955

**The flag stands for:** Red and white have long been associated with Austria and are national emblems. The coat of arms at the centre is only used when the flag is flown by the government.







## MONTENEGRO

**Flag adopted on:** 13 July, 2004

**Country Capital:** Podgorica

**Independence:** June 3, 2006

**The flag stands for:** The flag is a red field bordered by a golden-yellow stripe. The Montenegrin coat of arms is in the centre.



## SLOVAK REPUBLIC

**Flag adopted on:** September 1, 1992

**Country Capital:** Bratislava

**Independence (Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia):** January 1, 1993

**The flag stands for:** The flag incorporates traditional pan-Slavic colours.





# Western Europe

**Western Europe is made up of varying landscapes. Spain lies at the intersection of Africa and Europe. Finland, on the other hand, is one of the world's northernmost countries. Iceland is abundant with glaciers and natural geysers, whereas Greece is full of mountains and has over 2000 islands. Ireland has a coastline as long as 3,200 kilometres.**



## PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA

**Adopted in:** 1866

**Country Capital:** Andorra la Vella

**Independence:** 1278

**The flag stands for:** The colours are derived from the flags of France and Spain – these two countries have joint jurisdiction over the principality. The coat of arms is in the centre of the flag.



## FRENCH REPUBLIC

**Flag adopted on:** February 15, 1794

**Country Capital:** Paris

**Independence:** 486

**The flag stands for:** The colours represent liberty, equality and fraternity – ideals of the 1789 French Revolution.



## REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

**Flag adopted on:** May 29, 1918

**Country Capital:** Helsinki

**Independence from Russia:** December 6, 1917

**The flag stands for:** Blue represents the lakes in Finland, and white symbolises the snow. The official flag has the coat of arms featuring a lion.

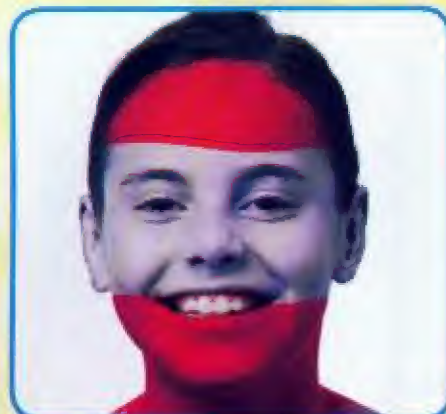
## KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

**Adopted in:** January 23, 1831

**Country Capital:** Brussels

**Independence from the Netherlands:** October 4, 1830

**The flag stands for:** The colours are derived from the national coat of arms – gold from the lion, black from the shield, and red from the lion's tongue and claws.







## FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

**Flag adopted on:** May 23, 1949

**Country Capital:** Berlin

**Independence (Federal Republic proclaimed):** May 23, 1949

**The flag stands for:** The colours are derived from the uniforms of German soldiers who were involved in the Napoleonic Wars (1804-1815).



## REPUBLIC OF ICELAND

**Flag adopted on:** June 19, 1915

**Country Capital:** Reykjavik

**Independence from Denmark:** June 17, 1944

**The flag stands for:** Red represents the volcanoes in Iceland. White represents ice and snow. Blue stands for the bordering Atlantic Ocean. The cross is derived from the Danish flag.



## HELLENIC REPUBLIC (GREECE)

**Adopted in:** 1822

**Country Capital:** Athens

**Independence from the Ottoman Empire:** 1829

**The flag stands for:** The nine stripes represent the nine syllables in the battle cry for independence that is translated as "Freedom or Death". The cross symbolises the religious faith of the Greek people.



## ITALIAN REPUBLIC

**Flag adopted on:** January 21, 1919

**Country Capital:** Rome

**Independence (Kingdom of Italy proclaimed):** March 17, 1861

**The flag stands for:** According to one legend, the green on the Italian flag was used because it was Napoleon's favourite colour. Another theory suggests that the colours white and green are based on the uniforms of the militia of Milan, Italy.



## IRELAND

**Flag adopted on:** January 21, 1919

**Country Capital:** Dublin

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** December 6, 1921

**The flag stands for:** Green symbolises the Roman Catholics, orange represents the Protestants, and white represents the peace between the two Christian sects.



## KINGDOM OF DENMARK

**Adopted in:** 1625 (oldest European flag)

**Country Capital:** Copenhagen

**Independence (became a constitutional monarchy):** June 5, 1849

**The flag stands for:** The Danish flag is believed to be a token that the Pope presented during the time of the Crusades. The cross design (Scandinavian Cross) was subsequently adopted by other regional flags.





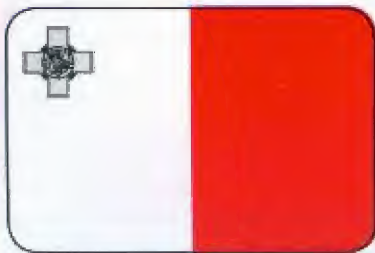
### PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

**Flag adopted on:** June 24, 1937

**Country Capital:** Vaduz

**Independence from the Holy Roman Empire:** July 12, 1806

**The flag stands for:** The crown represents the principality's independence. Blue stands for the sky, and red stands for the evening fires at homes.



### REPUBLIC OF MALTA

**Flag adopted on:** September 21, 1964

**Country Capital:** Valletta

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** September 21, 1964

**The flag stands for:** The colours are derived from the badge that the Knights of Malta once used.



### GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

**Adopted in:** 1972

**Country Capital:** Luxembourg

**Independence from the Netherlands:** May 11, 1867

**The flag stands for:** The colours are derived from the coat of arms used by the grand duke in the 1200s.



### PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO

**Flag adopted on:** April 4, 1881

**Country Capital:** Monaco

**Independence (the House of Grimaldi begins its rule):** 1419

**The flag stands for:** The white and red are the heraldic colours of the House of Grimaldi.



### KINGDOM OF NORWAY

**Flag adopted on:** July 17, 1821

**Country Capital:** Oslo

**Independence (union with Sweden declared dissolved):** June 7, 1905

**The flag stands for:** The tricolour symbolises liberty, and is influenced by the U.K., U.S. and French flags. The cross is modelled on the Danish and Swedish flags.



### KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

**Flag adopted on:** February 19, 1937

**Country Capital:** Amsterdam

**Independence:** January 23, 1579

**The flag stands for:** The colours were derived from the livery colours of the Dutch prince, William of Orange. The orange in the flag was later replaced by the red colour.





## PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC

**Flag adopted on:** June 30, 1911

**Country Capital:** Lisbon

**Independence (Kingdom of Portugal recognised):** 1143

**The flag stands for:** Green represents King Henry the Navigator, who was a Portuguese explorer. Red was once used in the revolutionary flag. The central shield symbolises the country's history of ocean exploration.



## KINGDOM OF SPAIN

**Flag adopted on:** July 19, 1927

**Country Capital:** Madrid

**Independence (unification of several independent kingdoms):** 1492

**The flag stands for:** Yellow and red are the colours of the coat of arms of the Aragon and Castile regions.



## REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

**Flag adopted on:** April 6, 1862

**Country Capital:** San Marino

**Independence (Republic founded):** September 3, AD 301

**The flag stands for:** White symbolises snow on Mount Titano, which is the country's highest point, and blue represents the sky.



## KINGDOM OF SWEDEN

**Flag adopted on:** June 22, 1906

**Country Capital:** Stockholm

**Independence:** June 6, 1523

**The flag stands for:** The yellow and blue colours are derived from the national coat of arms. The cross is inspired by the Danish flag.



## STATE OF THE VATICAN CITY

**Flag adopted on:** June 7, 1929

**Country Capital:** Vatican City

**Independence:** February 11, 1929

**The flag stands for:** The colours are derived from the keys of St. Peter. The emblem has the keys upholding the papal crown.



## SWISS CONFEDERATION

**Flag adopted on:** December 12, 1889

**Country Capital:** Bern

**Independence (founding of the Confederation):** August 1, 1291

**The flag stands for:** The design is modelled on the war flag used by the Holy Roman Empire.

## UNITED KINGDOM

**Flag adopted on:** January 1, 1801

**Country Capital:** London

**Independence (current name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland adopted):** 1927

**The flag stands for:** The design features three crosses representing different countries—cross of St. George (England), cross of St. Andrew (Scotland) and cross of St. Patrick (Ireland).





# The Middle East

**Deserts surround the Middle East. Iran is mostly surrounded by soaring mountain ranges. Forty percent of Iraq is desert. Kuwait and Qatar have deserts too. The eastern side of Jordan is mostly desert while Oman's centre is a desert plain. Saudi Arabia has vast sand spaces, and the country is largely uninhabited. Turkey, which shares its boundaries with both Asia and Europe, is the exception with mountains and coastlines along the Aegean, Black, and the Mediterranean seas.**



## KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

**Adopted in:** 1932

**Country Capital:** Manama

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** August 15, 1971

**The flag stands for:** The flag is red and white, traditional colours of the Persian Gulf states.



## REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

**Flag adopted on:** August 16, 1960

**Country Capital:** Nicosia

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** August 16, 1960

**The flag stands for:** The olive branches symbolise the hope for peace between the Greek and Turkish communities in the island. The copper-coloured outline represents the island's name; Cyprus is the Greek word for 'copper'.



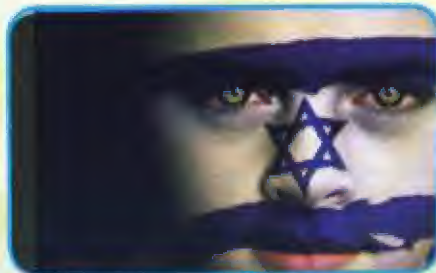
## ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**Flag adopted on:** July 29, 1980

**Country Capital:** Tehran

**Independence:** April 1, 1979

**The flag stands for:** The Arabic phrase Allahu Akbar ('God is Great') is written 22 times along the edges of the red and the green portions of the flag. The coat of arms is a stylised Arabic representation of the word Allah.







### REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

**Flag adopted on:** January 14, 1991

**Country Capital:** Baghdad

**Independence from League of Nations mandate under British control:** October 3, 1932

**The flag stands for:** The phrase Allahu Akbar is written between the stars. Red, green, white and black are the traditional colours of all Arab countries.



### STATE OF ISRAEL

**Flag adopted on:** October 28, 1948

**Country Capital:** Jerusalem

**Independence from the League of Nations mandate under British control:** May 14, 1948

**The flag stands for:** The six-pointed star is also known as the Magen David (Shield of David). The colours white and blue are derived from the traditional Jewish prayer shawl.



### HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

**Flag adopted on:** April 16, 1928

**Country Capital:** Amman

**Independence from the League of Nations mandate under British control:** May 25, 1946

**The flag stands for:** The hoist-side triangle symbolises the Great Arab Revolt of 1916. The seven-pointed star represents the opening seven verses of the Islamic holy book, the Qur'an.

### STATE OF KUWAIT

**Flag adopted on:** September 7, 1961

**Country Capital:** Kuwait

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** June 19, 1961

**The flag stands for:** Green signifies fertile land, and white stands for purity. The red and the white stand for, respectively, the blood of the enemy and the defeat of the enemy.







### LEBANESE REPUBLIC

**Flag adopted on:** December 7, 1943

**Country Capital:** Beirut

**Independence from League of Nations mandate under French control:** November 22, 1943

**The flag stands for:** The cedar tree is a symbol of immortality, wealth and strength.



### SULTANATE OF OMAN

**Flag adopted on:** April 25, 1995

**Country Capital:** Muscat

**Independence (the Portuguese were driven out):** 1650

**The flag stands for:** The colour green symbolises the mountains that lie north of the country. White stands for peace, and then there is red – the common colour of all the Gulf countries' flags.



### STATE OF QATAR

**Adopted in:** 1949

**Country Capital:** Doha (Ad-Dawhah)

**Independence from the United Kingdom:** September 3, 1971

**The flag stands for:** It is said that the red dye on the flag changed into maroon in the Qatar sun!



### KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

**Adopted in:** 1973

**Country Capital:** Riyadh

**Independence (unification of the kingdom):** September 23, 1932

**The flag stands for:** Green is the common colour in all the Arab countries' flags. The Arabic inscription translates as: 'There is no god but God; Muhammad is the messenger of God.'



### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**Flag adopted on:** May 29, 1980

**Country Capital:** Damascus

**Independence from the League of Nations mandate under French control:** April 17, 1946

**The flag stands for:** The stars symbolise Syria and Iraq. The colours are derived from the Arab Liberation.



### REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

**Flag adopted on:** June 5, 1936

**Country Capital:** Ankara

**Independence (Republic declared):** October 29, 1923

**The flag stands for:** The star and the crescent are the symbol of Islam.



## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**Flag adopted on:** December 2, 1971

**Country Capital:** Abu Dhabi

**Independence from the United Kingdom:**  
December 2, 1971

**The flag stands for:** The flag has traditional Arab colours. The red, green, white and black, colours signify Arab unity. Other colours like green is for fertility, white is for neutrality, and black is for its incredible oil wealth.



## REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

**Flag adopted on:** May 22, 1990

**Country Capital:** San'a'

**Independence (Republic declared with the union of North Yemen and South Yemen):** May 22, 1990

**The flag stands for:** The flag is based on the earlier flags of the south and north divisions of the country.





# Western And Southern Asia

**Most countries in Western Asia are landlocked. The region is full of rugged mountains. Western Asia is home to some of the world's highest mountain peaks, including Annapurna, Kanchenjunga, Lhotse and Mount Everest. The Himalayas fortifies the northern boundary of India.**



## ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

**Flag adopted on:** January 27, 2002

**Country Capital:** Kabul

**Independence (from U.K. control over foreign affairs):** August 19, 1919

**The flag stands for:** The coat of arms in the middle features a mosque that is circled by sheaves of wheat and an Islamic inscription.



## KINGDOM OF BHUTAN

**Adopted in:** 1969

**Country Capital:** Thimphu

**Independence from India:** August 8, 1949

**The flag stands for:** The dragon at the centre is Bhutan's national emblem. White symbolises purity and loyalty. Yellow stands for the king's power, and the colour orange is synonymous with Buddhist religion.



## REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

**Flag adopted on:** August 24, 1990

**Country Capital:** Yerevan

**Independence (from Soviet Union):** September 21, 1991

**The flag stands for:** Red symbolises the blood shed by Armenians in their fight for independence. Blue represents the sky and hope. Orange stands for hard work.

## REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

**Flag adopted on:** February 5, 1991

**Country Capital:** Baku

**Independence from Soviet Union:** August 30, 1991

**The flag stands for:** The star and the crescent are Islamic symbols. The eight-pointed star stands for the eight traditional people of the Republic.



## REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

**Flag adopted on:** July 26, 1965

**Country Capital:** Male

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** July 26, 1965

**The flag stands for:** Red is the colour of the country's first flag. The crescent in the green panel is symbolic of Islam.





## REPUBLIC OF INDIA

**Flag adopted on:** July 22, 1947

**Country Capital:** New Delhi

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** August 15, 1947

**The flag stands for:** Orange stands for courage and sacrifice; white signifies peace and truth; and green represents faith and chivalry. At the centre, the flag has a 24-spoked wheel that stands for non-violence.



## DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

**Flag adopted on:** December 17, 1978

**Country Capital:** Colombo

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** February 4, 1948

**The flag stands for:** The dark-red rectangle has a lion holding a sword and bo leaves at the four corners. The bo tree is symbolic of Buddhism. The sword represents authority. The orange and green panels stand for the minority Tamil and Islamic communities.



## ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

**Flag adopted on:** August 14, 1947

**Country Capital:** Islamabad

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** August 14, 1947

**The flag stands for:** Traditional Islamic symbols are used in the flag. White stands for Pakistan's non-Muslim population. The star represents knowledge and light, and the crescent stands for progress.



## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

**Flag adopted on:** January 13, 1972

**Country Capital:** Dhaka

**Independence (from Pakistan):** March 26, 1971

**The flag stands for:** The disc represents the 'Rising Sun of a New Country'. The colour red stands for the blood that was shed during the independence movement.



## KINGDOM OF NEPAL

**Flag adopted on:** December 16, 1962

**Country Capital:** Kathmandu

**Independence (unified by Prithvi Narayan Shah):** 1768

**The flag stands for:** This is the only national flag that is neither square nor rectangular. Two triangles overlap each other. One has a sun and the other features a moon. Red represents the colour of the rhododendron, the national flower. The blue symbolises peace.



# East And Southeast Asia

**East and Southeast Asia are located between the Pacific and the Indian oceans. A number of smaller islands lie to the south and east of mainland Southeast Asia. China, the largest Asian country, occupies a big chunk of the region's mass.**



## STATE OF BRUNEI

**Flag adopted on:** September 29, 1959

**Country Capital:** Bandar Seri Begawan

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** January 1, 1984

**The flag stands for:** The yellow stands for the Sultan of Brunei, while the other two colours, white and black, represent Brunei's two chief ministers. The coat of arms has a crescent, and a ribbon with the inscription 'Brunei, abode of peace' below it.



## KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

**Flag adopted on:** June 29, 1993

**Country Capital:** Phnom Penh

**Independence from France:** November 9, 1953

**The flag stands for:** Blue and red are Cambodia's traditional colours. In the middle is a three-towered temple complex of Angkor Wat, which makes this flag the only one to feature a building.



## JAPAN

**Flag adopted on:** January 26, 1870

**Country Capital:** Tokyo

**Independence (traditional founding):** 660 BC

**The flag stands for:** The sun's red disc (Hinomaru) has been used in Japanese culture for centuries. The white background represents purity and honesty.







### DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (KOREA, NORTH)

**Flag adopted on:** September 9, 1948

**Country Capital:** P'yongyang

**Independence (from Japan):**  
August 15, 1945

**The flag stands for:** The red star and the stripe stand for communist ideals. The blue stripe symbolises peace and the white stripes stand for purity.



### MALAYSIA

**Flag adopted on:** September 16, 1963

**Country Capital:** Kuala Lumpur

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** August 31, 1957

**The flag stands for:** Inspired by the American flag, the 14 stripes and 14 points of the star stand for the original 14 states of Malaysia. Today, the 14th stripe and point represents the Malaysian government, after Singapore left the federation in 1965.



### REPUBLIC OF KOREA (KOREA, SOUTH)

**Flag adopted on:** January 25, 1950

**Country Capital:** Seoul

**Independence (from Japan):**  
August 15, 1945

**The flag stands for:** White is Korea's traditional colour. The yin-yang symbol in the middle stands for unity. The four sets of black bars represent heaven, earth, moon and sun.



### UNION OF MYANMAR (BURMA)

**Flag adopted on:** January 4, 1974

**Country Capital:** Yangon

**Independence (from the United Kingdom):** January 4, 1948

**The flag stands for:** The 14 stars represent the 14 states and other divisions in Burma. A cogwheel frames a stalk of rice, which represents the peasants as well as the union of industry and agriculture.



### LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LAOS)

**Flag adopted on:** December 2, 1975

**Country Capital:** Vientiane

**Independence (from France):**  
July 19, 1949

**The flag stands for:** The white disc on a blue field is deemed to represent the moon's glow over the Mekong River.



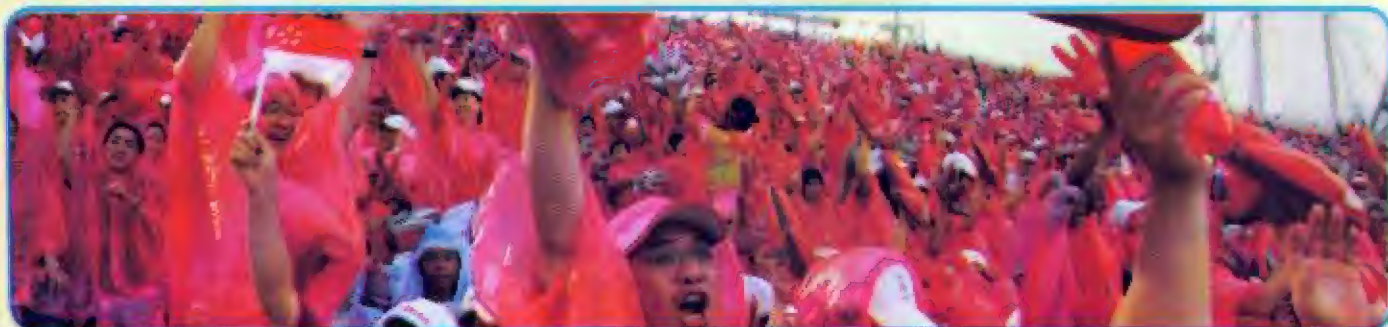
### REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

**Flag adopted on:** December 3, 1959

**Country Capital:** Singapore

**Independence (from Malaysian Federation):** August 9, 1965

**The flag stands for:** The white crescent symbolises a young nation. The five stars represent peace, progress, democracy, justice and equality. Red symbolises universal brotherhood, and white stands for purity and virtue.







### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE (EAST TIMOR)

**Flag adopted on:** May 20, 2002

**Country Capital:** Dili

**Independence (recognised; from Portugal):** May 20, 2002

**The flag stands for:** The colour yellow stands for centuries of colonial repression; black represents difficult times that need overcoming; and red stands for the independence struggle. The white star in the black triangle is the 'light that guides'.



### REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

**Flag adopted on:** August 17, 1945

**Country Capital:** Jakarta

**Independence (declared; from the Netherlands):** August 17, 1945

**The flag stands for:** The flag is inspired by a similar flag used during the 1200s by the Majapahit Empire. The colour red denotes courage and white means holy.



### REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**Flag adopted on:** May 19, 1898

**Country Capital:** Manila

**Independence (from Spain):** June 12, 1898

**The flag stands for:** The white triangle represents peace. The three stars symbolise Luzon, Mindanao and Visayan – the three main geographical regions of the country. The sun stands for independence, while its eight rays represent the eight provinces that opposed the Spanish rule. Blue stands for patriotism and red stands for courage.



### KINGDOM OF THAILAND

**Flag adopted on:** September 28, 1917

**Country Capital:** Bangkok

**Independence (traditional founding):** 1238

**The flag stands for:** Red represents the blood sacrificed by the country's people; white stands for Buddhism; and blue represents the monarchy.

### SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

**Flag adopted on:** November 30, 1955

**Country Capital:** Hanoi

**Independence (from France):** September 2, 1945

**The flag stands for:** The five points of the star represent the five main classes of workers – the military, intellectuals, wage-earners, peasantry, and middle class.





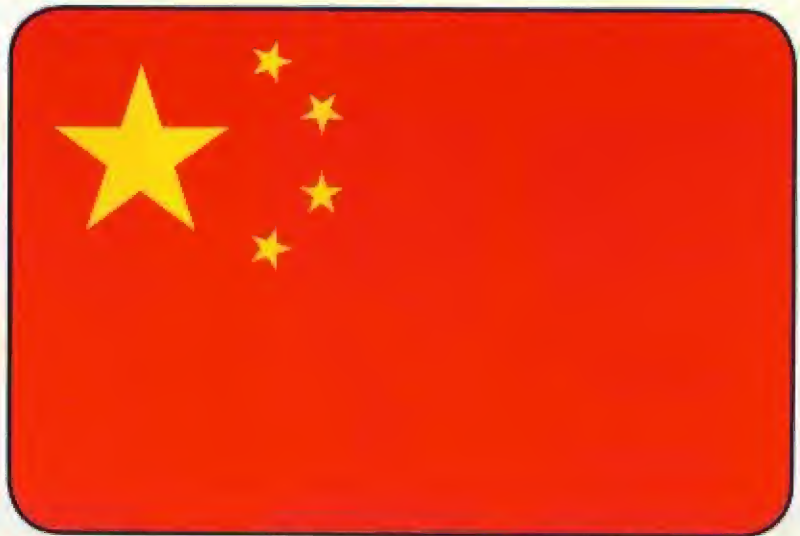
## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**Flag adopted on:** October 1, 1949

**Country Capital:** Beijing

**Independence (People's Republic established):** October 1, 1949

**The flag stands for:** Red represents the communist revolution. The large star represents the country's Communist Party, with the other four smaller stars symbolising the four social classes.





# International Flags



## Arab League

The flag has the emblem of the league that comprises of 22 Arab states.



## Asean

The flag represents the main colours of the flags of all members of the association.



## Caricom

The yellow circle represents the sun. The logo is that of the Caribbean Community and Common Market that was founded in 1973.



## CIS

The Commonwealth of Independent States is a confederation of the twelve countries that belonged to the former Soviet Union.



## Commonwealth

The logo features the letter C around the figure of a globe.



## European Union

The twelve gold stars represent the union of the peoples of European countries.



## NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is an international defence alliance meant primarily for the countries in North America and Europe.



## OAS

The Organisation of American States is an association of all independent countries in Central, South and North America.



## Olympic Movement

The rings represent the five different parts of the world where the Olympic games were actively followed.



## OPEC

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries was set up to look at the petroleum-related policies of oil-producing nations.



## Red Cross

The red cross symbol stands for mercy and neutrality.



## Pacific Community

The stars in the flag represent the member countries.



## United Nations

The flag has two olive branches – symbols of peace – flanking a map of the Earth.



## African Union

The middle white portion features the coat of arms.



## OIC

The flag of the Organization of Islamic Conference features pan-Arab colours, and an inscription that translates as 'God is Great.'



# Signal Flags

Letter A



Letter B



Letter C



Letter D



Letter E



Letter F



Letter G



Letter H



Letter I



Letter J



Letter K



Letter L



Letter M



Letter N



Letter O



Letter P



Letter Q



Letter R



Letter S



Letter T



Letter U



Letter V



Letter W



Letter X



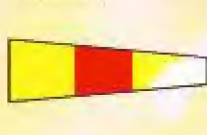
Letter Y



Letter Z



Number 0



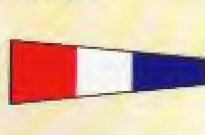
Number 1



Number 2



Number 3



Number 4



Number 5



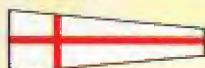
Number 6



Number 7



Number 8



Number 9



1<sup>st</sup> Repeater



2<sup>nd</sup> Repeater



3<sup>rd</sup> Repeater





## **Facts At A Glance**

---

- Vexillology is another name for the study of flags.
- The Romans used flags as a sign of communication – for signaling people at a distance.
- The word 'flag' has its origins in the word 'fflaken' which means to float in the air.
- A ship carrying an admiral's flag is called a flagship.
- There were no uniforms for soldiers in bygone days; so armies used to paint their shields with emblems as a way of identifying friend or foe.
- Emblems were also used to cover suits of armour – that was the birth of the Coat of Arms!
- The first to use flag made of cloth were Romans.

## **Flags And Symbols**

- White - peace and honesty
- Red – bravery and strength
- Blue – truth, loyalty and justice
- Green - hope, joy and love, and has a religious significance in many countries
- Black - determination and heritage of the people of some countries
- Yellow – generosity



## Activity

The motto that translates as 'Order and Progress' can be found in the flag of this country:

- a) Belgium b) Belarus c) Brazil

The coat of arms in this country's flag has the motto that translates as 'Union makes Strength':

- a) Netherlands Antilles b) Republic of Haiti c) Morocco

The phrase that translates as 'God is great' is written 22 times along the edges of this country's flag:

- a) Islamic Republic of Iran b) Republic of Chile c) Republic of Chad

The treasury seal on the flag of this country has the motto that translates as 'Peace and Justice':

- a) Republic of Suriname b) Republic of Paraguay c) Somalia

The coat of arms in the flag of this country has the motto that translates as 'Unity, Peace, Justice':

- a) Republic of Equatorial Guinea b) Malaysia c) State of Kuwait

## Match The Following:

- |                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 Star of May                 | A Cyprus      |
| 2 Rising sun of a new country | B Argentina   |
| 3 Freedom or death            | C Brunei      |
| 4 Copper                      | D Bangladesh  |
| 5 Abode of peace              | E Greece      |
| 6 God, union, liberty         | F Haiti       |
| 7 Union makes strength        | G Morocco     |
| 8 Seal of Solomon             | H El Salvador |
| 9 Star of Hope                | I Togo        |



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# FLAG BOOK

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